



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

March 23, 2001

## President's Top Priority Introduced by House Education Leaders

House GOP education leaders on Thursday hailed the introduction of H.R. 1, President George W. Bush's *No Child Left Behind* education reform plan, which focuses on flexibility, accountability, and choice to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers.

"President Bush, the U.S. Congress, and the American people have all identified the improvement of education as their number one priority. Today, we have proposed legislation which positively responds by closing the gap which adversely affects our most disadvantaged students," said House Education Reform Subcommittee Chairman Mike Castle (R-Del.).

House Education & the Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner echoed the president's call for more accountability, saying: "The hard lesson of the past is that money alone cannot be the vehicle for change in our schools. If our goal truly is to leave no child behind, there must be accountability for results."

Too often, low expectations have translated into poor results. This tacit tolerance of mediocrity has had devastating consequences. States and school districts must be held accountable for improving student achievement. H.R. 1 gives students a chance, parents a choice, and schools a charge to be the best in the world.

### Message of the Day

**H.R. 1 is a comprehensive bill that embodies President Bush's bold plans for reforming America's public elementary and secondary schools.**

- *The bill reflects the desire of President Bush and GOP education leaders to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers and to work with states to make America's schools the best in the world.*
- *The achievement gap cannot stand. We have a moral obligation to bring real change to 35 years of failed education policies -- and to pass this bill for our children's future.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 gives states and school districts the flexibility to implement innovative solutions that have proven effective at the state and local level.
- *No Child Left Behind* establishes a rigorous accountability system, including asking states to design and implement annual math and reading tests for students in grades three through eight.
- The President's plan gives parents the option of removing their children from failing schools and sending them to a different public school or a private school after three years of chronic failure.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"The time for change has come, and bold legislation such as H.R. 1 that incorporates high standards, annual measurement and accountability, including expanded parental choice, with increased support and flexibility for our state and local governments will help us usher in that change."* **Statement by Education Secretary Rod Paige, March 22**